Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the Office Action of July 24, 2007. No claim amendments are presented in this response. However, a listing of all pending claims is included with this response for the Examiner's convenience.

Re: Rejection of Claims 1, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0009535 to Hong et al. (hereinafter "Hong"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since Hong fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention.

Applicants first note that independent claims 1 and 5 recite:

"generating a track error signal;
detecting an occurrence of a fundamental change in a property of the track;
generating an offset value from a comparison of a value of the track error signal that occurs before the detected fundamental change in property of the track to a value of the track error signal that occurs after the detected fundamental change in property of the track;
generating the track error signal, taking account of the offset value; and
repeating the aforementioned steps." (emphasis added; see claim 1), and

"a track control loop for generating a track error signal;
a track property change detector for detecting a track property change and generating a signal in response to the detection; and
an offset value generator, which, in a manner dependent on the signal generated by the track property change detector, generates an offset value from a comparison of a value of the track error signal that occurs before the detection of the track property change to a value of the track error signal that occurs after the detection of the track property change and feeds said offset value to the track control loop." (emphasis added; see claim 5).

- 4 -

As indicated above, independent claims 1 and 5 recite a method and apparatus that generates an offset value from a comparison of a value of a track error signal that occurs before the detection of a track property change to a value of the track error signal that occurs after the detection of the track property change. Hong fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, this feature of the claimed invention.

In formulating the instant rejection, the Examiner alleges that paragraph [0012] of Hong discloses the above-described feature of the claimed invention (see page 3 of the Office Action dated July 24, 2007). Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, Applicants note that paragraph [0012] of Hong states:

> "Here, the digital processing section 14 is composed of a sign switching section 14a and a tracking controller 14b. The sign switching section 14a outputs the track error em by switching the sign of the tracking error signal TE by the L/G signal inputted according as the track that the optical head 1 follows is the land or the groove. The tracking controller 14b judges the deviation and the tilt of the optical disc by the switched track error em, and outputs the control signal u to the actuator 15."

As indicated above, paragraph [0012] of Hong does not even mention an offset value. Accordingly, the cited passage of Hong fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, generating an offset value from a comparison of a value of a track error signal that occurs before the detection of a track property change to a value of the track error signal that occurs after the detection of the track property change, as claimed.

Moreover, Hong nowhere teaches or suggests that an offset value is generated from a comparison of track error signal values from before and after a track property change, as claimed (see, for example, paragraphs [0014] to [0029] of Hong which discuss the offset value of FIG. 3). Rather, Hong ostensibly teaches away from the claimed invention in that it teaches a completely different tracking control technique (see, for example, paragraph [0031] of Hong) than what is claimed. In view of this clarification, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

- 5 -

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No.: 10/517,467
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Response dated: 10/24/07

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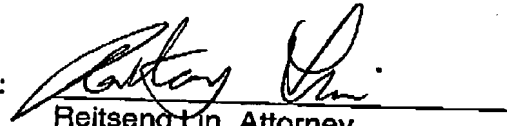### Re: Rejection of Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0039331 by Park (hereinafter, "Park"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since Park is unable to remedy the deficiencies of Hong pointed out above in conjunction with claims 1, 4 and 5. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks/arguments, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account
No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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October 24, 2007

- 6 -